

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 PEKING 01938 270917Z

17

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 IO-13 OMB-01 SAI-01 SAM-01 CU-02 /086 W

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R 270820Z SEP 76

FM USLO PEKING

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6456

INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

C O N F I D E N T I A L PEKING 1938

NOFORN

E.O.11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, CH, NZ

SUBJECT: FORMER NEW ZEALAND PM ROWLING'S VISIT TO PRC

1. BEGIN INTRODUCTION AND SUMMARY. FORMER NEW ZEALAND PRIME MINISTER EDWARD ROWLING LEFT PEKING ON SEPTEMBER 26 FOLLOWING BRIEF VISITS TO SHANGHAI (SEPT. 19-20) AND SIAN (SEPT 21-23) AND TALKS IN PEKING WITH FOREIGN MINISTER CHIAO KUAN-HUA (SEPT 24) AND PREMIER HUA KUO-FENG (SEPT 25). THE NEW ZEALAND EMBASSY WAS NOT INVITED TO PARTICIPATE IN SUBSTANTIVE TALKS AND HAD NO OPPORTUNITY TO DEBRIEF ROWLING SYSTEMATICALLY BEFORE HIS DEPARTURE. FOLLOWING ARE MISCELLANEOUS OBSERVATIONS AND TRIP HIGHLIGHTS PROVIDED BY NEW ZEALAND EMBOFF. END INTRODUCTION AND SUMMARY.

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PAGE 02 PEKING 01938 270917Z

2. PERIOD OF NATIONAL MOURNING FOLLOWING MAO'S DEATH GAVE MAKESHIFT AND SUBDUED CAST TO ENTIRE VISIT. ROWLING WAS "REQUESTED" ON ARRIVAL IN CANTON SEPTEMBER 19 TO TOUR PROVINCES FIRST OWING TO PREOCCUPATION OF NATIONAL LEADERSHIP WITH MOURNING PERIOD. ALL BANQUETS-- THREE HAD BEEN SCHEDULED AND SHOWN ON ROWLING'S ITINERARY -- WERE CANCELLED; ROWLING AND HIS PARTY ATE NOT A SINGLE MEAL WITH THEIR HOSTS THROUGHOUT THE TRIP.

3. CHINESE HOSTS ADOPTED TOWARD NEW ZEALAND EMBASSY AN APPROACH INCREASINGLY FAMILIAR TO USLO OFFICERS CONCERNED WITH VISITS BY "PRIVATE" AMERICAN INDIVIDUALS OR DELEGATIONS. ON FIRST DAY OF VISIT CHINESE PEOPLE'S INSTITUTE OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS HOST MA CHIA-CHUN INDICATED HIS DESIRE TO HAVE A "POLITICAL DISCUSSION," ADDING POINTEDLY THAT THIS SHOULD BE WITH MR. AND MRS. ROWLING ONLY, OWING TO PRIVATE NATURE OF VISIT. NEW ZEALAND EMBASSY WAS ALSO NOT INVITED TO ATTEND ROWLING'S SESSIONS WITH FOREIGN MINISTER CHIAO AND PREMIER HUA.

4. THE PROVINCES. SHANGHAI AND SIAN PUBLIC BUILDINGS AND WALLS WERE PLASTERED WITH MEMORIAL POSTERS AND INSCRIPTIONS FOR MAO; CANTON DISPLAYED SOMEWHAT FEWER POSTERS. IN SIAN THERE WERE NO LONGER ANY VISIBLE POSTERS CONCERNED WITH THE NOW-FAMOUS

RAPE CASE OR CAPITALIST ROADERS.

5. MEETING WITH CHIAO. ALTHOUGH THE NEW ZEALAND EMBOFF DOES NOT KNOW THE CONTENT OF THE ROWLING-CHIAO TALK, HE SPECULATES THAT ROWLING MAY HAVE SOUGHT CHIAO'S CLARIFICATION OF CHINESE THINKING REGARDING NEW ZEALAND-TAIWAN TIES. (NEW ZEALAND HAS PERMITTED VISITS BY INDIVIDUALS AND GROUPS DESCRIBING THEMSELVES AS FROM THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA, PLAYING THE ROC NATIONAL ANTHEM, AND FLYING THE ROC NATIONAL FLAG. DESPITE ROWLING'S PUBLIC WARNING AT A PROBABLE PRC PROTEST AT PARTICIPATION BY AN ROC SOFTBALL TEAM IN A NEW ZEALAND TOURNAMENT LAST JANUARY, NO PROTEST HAD BEEN FORTHCOMING, AND THIS HAD CAUSED HIM CONSIDERABLE EMBARRASSMENT AT THE TIME.) A LOCAL JOURNALIST WHO SPOKE SEPARATELY WITH ROWLING HAD THE IMPRESSION THAT SINO-VIETNAMESE RELATIONS FIGURED PROMINENNNHY IN THE TALK. ROWLING TOLD THE JOURNALIST THAT CHIAO HAD SPOKEN OF CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 PEKING 01938 270917Z

VIETNAM AS "ANOTHER CASE WHERE THE SOVIETS HAD OVERPLAYED THEIR HAND";

CHIAO ADDED THAT VIETNAM WOULD NOT ACCEPT "TOO MUCH INFLUENCE OR DIRECTION" FROM OUTSIDE AND WOULD NOT "GET INTO ANYBODY'S ORBIT." IN THIS CONTEXT,

ROWLING LEFT WITH THE IMPRESSION THAT CHINA EVEN HOPED FOR A VIETNAMESE ROLE AS A REGIONAL POWER, POSSIBLY IN THE CONTEXT OF

ASEAN.

6. MEETING WITH HUA. ROWLING DESCRIBED HUA AS "VERY RELAXED" AND "IN  
COMMAND" BUT WITH "NOTHING NEW AT ALL" IN HIS TWO-HOUR CONVERSATION.  
DEAN

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## Message Attributes

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